

Delta 2 rocket completes 250 launches with 100% success

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On June 21, a launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., was the 250th in a series of 100% successful launches of Aerojet's Delta 2, second-stage, storable-liquid rocket for the Department of Defense. The experimental military mission featured two small satellites and a Navy-developed fourth stage headed for geosynchronous orbit.

The 9800 pounds of thrust developed by the second stage-engine propelled the satellite to achieve a gravitational escape velocity, placing it into the proper orbit. Aerojet's second stage engine has also flown on Japan's N-II launch vehicles as well as the third stage for the U.S. Air Force Titan.

Aerojet is currently under contract with the Boeing Company to build the second-stage engine and provide launch and field support services for the U.S. Air Force, NASA and commercial satellite launch customers. The Boeing Delta 2 rocket launched the MITEX for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The company is an aerospace and defense leader serving the missile and space propulsion and armaments markets. GenCorp is a technology-manufacturer of aerospace and defense products and systems.

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